

AMERICAN WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WILLIAM GREEN, President

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1935

Editorials

Liberty League Opposes Wagner Bill

The American Liberty League, subsidized and dominated by interests pronounced in their opposition to the New Deal, charges that the Wagner Labor Relations Bill would strike a serious blow at various sorts of freedom which labor employers enjoy and desire to retain.

The Wagner bill, in fact, is nothing but a conservative statement of the fundamental principles which motivate the workers in their struggle to realize the rights which progressive citizens of all schools know are essential to build up an approach to justice in our system of wealth production and distribution.

The measure asserts the indisputable principle that equality of bargaining power between employers and employees is the basic element in securing the rights of the workers, and declares that collective bargaining by workers through representatives of their own choosing is the necessary machinery to realize this equality.

The bill, therefore, positively legalizes collective bargaining and provides for elections, supervised by a government board, by which the workers shall choose their agencies to carry out the bargaining idea.

In addition, the bill prohibits certain well-known subversive practices which employers use to victimize trade unionists and prevent collective bargaining. The practices include interference with the right to organize and bargain collectively, domination or interference with the formation and administration of labor organizations, financial support of labor organizations, and the use of discrimination to keep workers out of bona fide unions.

To administer the proposed law provision is made for a National Labor Relations Board.

These principles of fundamental economic rights for working men and women constitute the substance of the Wagner Labor Relations Bill. And the Liberty League has the effrontery to declare that writing these principles into the statute law of the United States and strictly administering them by a government board constitute a serious invasion of American liberties!

Business As Social Service

Labors position that industry should be operated largely for social service instead of for maximum profits is receiving support from a number of business leaders. Among them is Edward A. Filene, Boston merchant, who frequently discusses economic problems.

In his testimony before the Finance Committee of the United States Senate in favor of the extension of the National Industrial Recovery Act, Mr. Filene asserted that there is really no logical conflict between the higher interests of business and the general welfare of the community.

"The trouble is that there need to be just a little more time, was a time when business could get more profits if the money got into the hands of the workers," he said. "But time has passed and the money has not gone into the hands of the workers. It has gone into the hands of the few who own the business. That time has passed. The trouble is that there need to be just a little more time. All that business needs for recovery today is to recover from this depression."

Mr. Filene was equally explicit in his statement that the depression which started in 1929 was actually caused by the unequal distribution of business, of industry, which was, and still is, the dominating theory of business. On this point he said:

"When we have been able to produce enough to go around, one of two things just had to happen. Either the money got into the hands of the few who own the business, or the money got into the hands of the many who work for the business. The money got into the hands of the few. That's almost the complete story of the depression."

Unfortunately most of our business leaders are still animated with the theory of maximum profit for those who own and control the system of production and distribution as the major purpose of industry, with the result that, with the army of unemployed numbering millions, the government is compelled to appropriate \$4,880,000,000 to provide work for those who are unemployed.

And the depression continues.

Picketing Right Judicially Affirmed

In 1928 the State of Illinois enacted a labor injunction on limitation law which affirmed the right of peaceful picketing during strikes.

In a case of picketing during a strike involving Local 18 of the International Upholsterers' Union, the anti-union employers contested the constitutionality of the law before the Illinois Supreme Court. The court ruled that the law violated neither the Constitution of Illinois nor the Constitution of the United States.

With a decision of the United States Supreme Court affirming the right of peaceful picketing already a matter of record, the anti-union employers' lawyers to Washington with the demand that the nation's highest judicial body overrule the Illinois decision and declare that the right to picket contravenes the constitutional property rights of Illinois employers. The Upholsterers' Union fought the appeal.

The Supreme Court refused to review the action of the Illinois court. The refusal merely reaffirmed the opinion that peaceful picketing does not violate the Constitution of the United States.

In commenting on the refusal of the Supreme Court, Victor Olander, secretary of the Illinois State Federation of Labor, said:

"The constitutionality of the Illinois Injunction Limitation Act of 1928, declaring the right of peaceful picketing during strikes, is judicially settled by the action of the U. S. Supreme Court in refusing to review the decision of the Illinois court upholding the act. This is another milestone has been erected along the pathway of labor progress to a greater freedom. The Upholsterers' union is to be congratulated upon carrying the legal battle to a successful conclusion."

Conference of Union Officials Is Called By Green to Consider Labor Legislation

By A. F. L. News Service.
Washington, D. C., April 19.—William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, called a conference of representatives of the national and international unions affiliated with the A. F. of L. in the city of Washington on April 19 to consider labor measures pending in Congress.

The purpose of the conference, Mr. Green's letter to labor officials said, "is to deal definitely and concretely with the Wagner-Connery Labor Disputes Bill, the National Labor Relations Act, and other legislative measures which Labor interests are entitled to take in this session of Congress."

The widespread interest which has been aroused by the Wagner-Connery Labor Disputes Bill shows clearly that this measure is regarded as of major importance to the nation's working men and women and their friends everywhere.

The opposition to this measure throughout the nation, active manufacturers' associations, large employers' organizations, and financial interests, are carrying on a campaign of opposition which is most unusual and extraordinary.

Mr. Green must meet this opposition by concentrating its efforts, by speaking collectively here in the capital city, by mobilizing the full and complete support of Labor and all its friends in both houses of Congress, and by the endorsement of the American Federation of Labor.

Mr. Green will also call attention to the fact that the Wagner-Connery Labor Disputes Bill is a measure which is in the interest of the nation's working men and women and their friends everywhere.

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Agreement Prevents Big Rubber Strike

Pact Signed in Washington by Union and Company Officials Postpones Labor Board Election and Provides for Joint Conference—Green Comments

By A. F. L. News Service.
Washington, D. C., April 19.—The agreement which was signed in Washington today by the United Rubber Workers of America and the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, postpones the election of a National Labor Relations Board and provides for a joint conference of the two organizations.

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30-Hour Week Is Only Real Remedy For Unemployment Green Declares

ANTI-INJUNCTION BILL SIGNED BY GOV. NICE Tells Philadelphia Mass Meeting That Putting Ten Million Jobless to Work at Good Wages Is Essential for Social Security—Importance of Wagner Labor Disputes Bill Stressed

By A. F. L. News Service.
Philadelphia, Pa., April 19.—The prompt enactment of the anti-injunction bill, which was signed by Governor NICE today, is essential for the social security of the nation, Green declared. He stressed the importance of the Wagner Labor Disputes Bill in his address to a mass meeting of the Philadelphia Federation of Labor.

Green declared that the only real remedy for unemployment is the 30-hour week. He stressed the importance of the Wagner Labor Disputes Bill in his address to a mass meeting of the Philadelphia Federation of Labor.

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